

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A sealing arrangement which includes a sealing ring having a sealing lip which is curved forward in the direction of an area to be sealed off and pre-tensioned so as to surround and form a seal around a circumference of a machine element to be sealed off,

wherein the sealing lip has, on a side facing radially away from the machine element, at least one recess which only connects and allows flow between the area to be sealed off and a surrounding area if the sealing ring is curved forward in the direction of the surrounding area, said at least one recess extending in the sealing lip and having a depth in a radial direction between the side facing radially away from the machine element and a side facing the machining element.

2. (Original) The sealing arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the recess is embodied as a tube-like channel.

3. (Original) The sealing arrangement according to claim 2, wherein at least two recesses are uniformly distributed around the circumference.

4. (Original) The sealing arrangement according to claim 1, wherein at least two recesses are uniformly distributed around the circumference.

5. (Original) The sealing arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the sealing lip is made of a polymeric material.

6. (Original) The sealing arrangement according to claim 5, wherein the sealing lip is made of PTFE.

7. (Original) The sealing arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the sealing lip has, on the side radially facing the machine element, a recirculating spiral groove for the medium that is to be sealed off.

8. (Original) The sealing arrangement according to claim 2, wherein the sealing lip has, on the side radially facing the machine element, a recirculating spiral groove for the medium that is to be sealed off.

9. (Original) The sealing arrangement according to claim 4, wherein the sealing lip has, on the side radially facing the machine element, a recirculating spiral groove for the medium that is to be sealed off.

10. (Previously Presented) A sealing arrangement for forming a seal around a machine element, comprising:

a sealing ring including a sealing lip, the sealing lip including at least one recess on a side of the sealing lip facing radially away from the machine element, said at least one recess extending in the sealing lip and having a depth in a radial direction between the side facing radially away from the machine element and a side facing the machining element.

11. (Previously Presented) The sealing arrangement according to claim 10, wherein the at least one recess includes a tube-like channel.

12. (Previously Presented) The sealing arrangement according to claim 10, wherein the at least one recess includes at least two recesses uniformly distributed around a circumference of the sealing lip.

13. (Previously Presented) The sealing arrangement according to claim 10, wherein the sealing arrangement is made of a polymeric material.

14. (Previously Presented) The sealing arrangement according to claim 13, wherein the polymeric material includes PTFE.

15. (Previously Presented) The sealing arrangement according to claim 10, wherein the sealing lip further includes a recirculating spiral groove on a side of the sealing lip radially facing toward the machine element.

16. (Currently Amended) A sealing arrangement for forming a seal around a machine element, comprising:

a sealing ring operable to permit flow between an area to be sealed off and a surrounding area, via at least one recess extending in the sealing ring and having a depth in a radial direction between a side of the sealing ring facing radially away from the machine element and a side facing the machine element, if the sealing ring is incorrectly mounted on the machine element.

17. (Previously Presented) The sealing arrangement according to claim 16, wherein the sealing ring further includes a sealing lip, the sealing ring being operable to permit the flow if the sealing lip is erroneously curved forward in a direction of the surrounding area.

18. (New) The sealing arrangement according to claim 1, wherein a distal end of the sealing lip contacts the machine element when curved forward in the direction of the area to be sealed off.

19. (New) The sealing arrangement according to claim 10, wherein a distal end of the sealing lip contacts a machine element when curved forward in a direction of an area to be sealed off.

20. (New) The sealing arrangement according to claim 16, wherein a distal end of the sealing ring contacts a machine element when curved forward in a direction of an area to be sealed off.